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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DS/CR/VF, CA/FPP, CA/VO/L/C AND CA/VO/F/P
EMBASSIES FOR CONSULAR SECTION FPU

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TAGS: [CVIS](#) [KFRD](#) [ASEC](#) [BU](#)

SUBJECT: Entertainment Recruiter's Likely Ties to Visa Fraud
Warrant Further Attention

1. We have noted a pattern of visa abuse that strongly implicates Magic Star Entertainment (MSE) -- 142 Estates Circle, Lake Mary, FL 32746, phones (407) 322-9211 and (407) 322-9322, email Kristo500@aol.com, website [www.magic-star.com](#) -- in alien smuggling, using the P1 visa category. MSE's president is Christo Ivanov, a.k.a. Kristo Ivanov, and its primary attorney is Mr. Scott A. Silzer -- Suite 3-1142, Lakeview Office Park, 1155 South Semoran Blvd, Winter Park, Florida, 32792, (407) 697-0101, [silzer@earthlink.net](#).

2. Since 1998 we have processed more than one hundred P1 visa applications from MSE. MSE is also active in Ukraine, Russia, and Romania. In mid-November, our FPU heard from informants that MSE would begin to forward its East European visa clients to the U.S. Embassy in London. This may be an attempt to avoid the extra scrutiny these applicants have recently been subjected to in Sofia, and probably in Ukraine and Russia as well. We have informed FPU London of our information.

3. Our best current source regarding (supposed) circus performers, in particular, listed on MSE petitions is a former circus performer -- Alexander Yuliev -- who had been in the business for decades. Yuliev's wife, Zoya Yulieva, a Russian citizen born 06 Jan 1955 in Ukraine, abandoned him by immigrating to the U.S. via this P1 scam. Yuliev believed his wife had gone to Moscow to visit her sister in April 2004, but later learned she was actually in the U.S. caring for elderly people.

4. Mrs. Yulieva had been issued a P1 visa in Sofia on 12/29/2003 on the basis of an MSE petition. Mr. Yuliev was shocked when he found out, because although his wife had once been a circus performer she had not been able to perform for years because of a serious past injuries to her shoulder, back and groin. In fact, in 2001 the Bulgarian Health Ministry had certified that she had lost significant working capacity and was entitled to social security benefits as a disabled person. Clearly, then, she was not a legitimate circus performer when she applied for her P1 visa in Sofia. Although technically still married to Mr. Yuliev, Yulieva has filed for divorce and expressed the intention to begin using her maiden name, Linkova. Yuliev believes she has arranged to marry an Amcit to legalize her status in the U.S.

5. Yuliev has known MSE president Christo Ivanov for some 20 years, and says Ivanov is a former circus performer who has lived in the U.S. for many years and provides circus performers and dancers for cruise lines, shows, theme parks and circuses. Yuliev also claims Ivanov is likely involved in smuggling women to the U.S. for prostitution as well, and that, with the help of his lawyers, has obtained many P1 visas for phony Bulgarian circus performers. These applicants subsequently got work in the U.S. as carpenters, cleaners, drivers and so on. According to Yuliev, Ivanov received USD 2000 from each of these applicants, plus USD 100 monthly until the applicant is able to adjust status and reside legally in his or her new home.

6. FPU has developed a general profile fitting MSE's "bad" P1 applicants (the company also gets visas for legitimate performers). Often they try to pass off newspaper clippings or general articles about circuses as supporting documents, even though a fairly cursory look will reveal these are unconnected to the applicants themselves. When spouses apply together, one of them typically has relatives in the U.S. and/or was previously refused a B1/B2 visa. They may be unable to explain with any confidence or detail what they do, and we have also seen a fair share of fake documents and altered photos with these cases.

7. Earlier this year we met with Mr. Ivanov. He wanted to discuss the visa denials of the members of the dance troupe "Step Vision" (petition SRC-04-201-51032). We stressed that none of his P1 applicants petitions would be approved without very reliable proof of skills. Ivanov explained that he knew about the many unqualified P1 applicants that had come our way through his company, but he claimed that he had not been personally involved in the selection process. He vowed that henceforth he would personally make all selections. For the "Step Vision" troupe he presented us

with video tapes, on the basis of which we issued P1 visas to 4 out of 9 applicants. These four were: Donika Gencheva Ivanova (DOB 28 Jan 1981), Nevena Georgieva Ivanova (DOB 24 May 1980), Diana Kirilova Slavcheva (DOB 03 Apr 1971) and Silviya Peteva Eremieva (DOB 21 Oct 1979). This month Yuliev told us that none of these putative dancers has ever performed stateside, but are in fact working there as babysitters, cooks and housecleaners.

18. A similar story unfolded with the acrobatic troupe "Sofia" (petition SRC-05-059-52300). The members of this group are Alexander Petrov Tomov (12 Oct 1962), Georgi Dimitrov Georgiev 08 Jun 1984), Yusein Aliev Yuseinov (02 Jun 1981), Todor Zdravkov Yordanov (23 Aug 1967), Dimitar Nikolov Dimitrov (18 Mar 1975), Darinka Velinova Angelova (26 Jan 1984), Radostina Dimitrova Todorova (09 Sep 1983) and Radostin Nachkov Naydenov (29 Jul 1977). They all applied on 1/19/2005 and were all denied under 214(b). Soon thereafter we received an email from the attorney Mr. Silzer vouching for the acrobats/performers and highlighting their notoriety and importance. In light of this additional information we called them in for a second interview, and were shown pictures and videos. We issued P1 visas to 7 of the 8 troupe members. The lone refusal resulted from a possible NCIC match, which required fingerprinting and follow-up. Now we hear from both Yuliev and another source that not one of these performers is working in accordance with the petition submitted by MSE, but rather all have illegally taken up other unskilled jobs.

19. We encourage all indicated parties to pursue further investigation in connection with Ivanov and Magic Star Entertainment. We are anxious to collaborate, and in this regard we would be happy to share any documents or information from our files that might prove useful.

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